DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 103 868 CS 201 928

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TITLE Some Resources in Indian Literature.
PUB DATE Nov 74
NOTE 8p.; Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Modern Language Association (16th, St. Louis, October 31-Nov. 2, 1974)

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.76 HC-$1.58 PLUS POSTAGE
DESCRIPTORS *American Indian Culture; *American Indians; *American Literature; *Annotated Bibliographies; *Anthologies; Bibliographies

ABSTRACT

This paper discusses some of the resources in the literature by and about the American Indian and lists numerous anthologies and bibliographies in this area. More than 40 publications are listed, including "Reference Encyclopedia of the American Indian," "American Indian Almanac," "Ethnographic Bibliography of North America," "American Indian Prose and Poetry," "The Whispering Wind: Poetry by Young American Indians," "The American Indian Reader," "Literature of the American Indian," and "American Indian Verse Translations." (TS)

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Some Resources in Indian Literature

Jack W Marken

To attempt to discuss all the resources in the literature by and about the American Indian is impossible in a short paper, if, indeed, it is possible at all. In what follows I will say something about recent publications in the areas of anthologies and bibliographies, while giving some bibliographical information in these and some other areas.

As background information to the subject, the best source for comprehensive information about the American Indian is Klein and Icolari's Reference Encyclopedia of the American Indian. First published in one volume in 1967, it has recently been revised and enlarged into two volumes for 1974. The first edition contained information under the following headings: government agencies, museums, libraries, associations, monuments and parks, reservations, tribal councils, schools, college courses, arts and crafts shops, visual aids, government publications, magazines and periodicals, bibliography-alphabetical, bibliography-subject, bibliography-publisher's index, and Who's Who. That volume contained 536 pages, and was useful, though incomplete. The new edition in two volumes includes the same sections as the old edition with the addition of "Urban Indian Centers" and the separation of the Who's Who section into the second volume. In the new edition there are 547 pages in Volume I and 291 pages in Volume II. Barry T. Klein is the editor of Volume I; Dan Icolari of Volume II. Bernard Klein, who with Icolari edited the first edition, is now listed as a consultant.

The Encyclopedia has weaknesses. The annotated bibliography entries in the encyclopedia are only a fraction of the total. According to the foreward to the bibliography the list contains "approximately 2,500 in-print books about or relating to Indians of North America." The annotations were supplied to the editor on questionnaires completed by the publishers, which means that the entries are very uneven, and when the publishers failed to answer the questionnaire, nothing is listed. This perhaps accounts for the omission of N. Scott Momaday's House Made of Dawn. In general, this is a good bibliography, and the subject index makes it possible to locate the books sought from the alphabetical listing.

The Who's Who volume is, unfortunately, not as complete as it should be. Those included are "American Indian's prominent in Indian affairs, business, the

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arts and professions, as well as non-Indians active in Indian affairs, history, art, anthropology, archaeology, etc., and the many fields to which the subject of the American Indian is related." The list is a good one but very far from being complete. N. Scott Momaday, Robert Burnette, Dallas Chief Eagle, authors, are missing as well as John Milton and Thomas Sanders, editors, and many others in professional and political work. Hopefully, future editions of the encyclopedia will prove more comprehensive than this one, useful as it is.

Much less expensive and very useful is American Indian Almanac, by John Upton Terrell, published in 1971 by Thomas Y. Crowell and in paper in an Apollo Edition in 1974. He discusses Indian tribes by geographic area and concentrates on the early periods when the tribes were flourishing.

I turn now to some bibliographies which will be useful to the secondary school teacher and the college professor. These are:

1. Boas, Franz. "Recent Work on American Indian Languages." Science, 75 (May 1932), 489-91. A bibliography of all the articles on Indian languages published by the Bureau of American Ethnology from 1911-1922.

2. ASD Adult Library Materials Committee Subcommittee on Materials for American Indians for the Use of Libraries and Other Institutions. "Selective Bibliography of Bibliographies of Indian Materials for Adults." American Libraries, 4(February 1973), 115-117. Short annotations of approximately 70 bibliographies. Very useful.

3. Dockstader, Frederick T., compiler, The American Indian in Graduate Studies: A Bibliography of Theses and Dissertations. New York: Museum of the American Indian Heye Foundation, 1957. 399 pp. (pp. 365-399 is Index). Listed in alphabetical order by researcher. The index has a long section on language (under Linguistics), Literature and Religions. This is supposed to be complete now through 1970.

4. Freeman, John F., and Murphy D. Smith. A Guide to Manuscripts Relating to the American Indian in the Library of the American Philosophical Society. Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society, 1966. 407 pp., plus 409-91, Index. Annotated. Some material is quite short, a page or so. Some of it is quite long and valuable source material.

5. Gibson, A. M. "Sources for Research on the American Indian," Ethnohistory, 7(1960), 121-36. A valuable article on the location of manuscript materials.

6. Henry, Jeannette, and others. Index to Literature on the American Indian, 1970. San Francisco: Indian Historian Press, Inc., 1972. 133 pp., plus "Native American Publications," pp. 139-177.

The same for 1971. Published 1972. 186 pp., plus "Native American Publications," pp. 191-230.
The same for 1972. Published 1974. 341 pp., plus "Special Index - The Indian Historian," 1972, pp. 345-349, and "Special Index - The Weewish Tree," 1972, pp. 351-354.

7. Hirschfelder, Arlene. American Indian and Eskimo Authors: A Comprehensive Bibliography, New York: Association on American Indian Affairs, 1973. 99 pp. I have not seen this work.

8. Hirschfelder, Arlene. "Bibliography Sources and Materials for Teaching About American Indians." Social Education, 36(May 1972), 488-93. Lists sources in visual materials (filmstrips, slides, photographs, etc.), documents, bibliographies.

9. Marken, Jack W. The Indians and Eskimos of North America: A Bibliography of Books in Print Through 1972. Vermillion, S.D., Dakota Press, 1973. 200 pp.

10. Murdock, George P. Ethnographic Bibliography of North America. 3rd ed. New Haven, Conn.: Human Relations Area Files, 1960. 380 pp. + Addenda, pp. 381-90; Index of Tribal Names, 391-93; Tribal Names, 391-93; Tribal Map, inside back cover, p. 395. Very good. A standard work.

11. Naumer, Janet Nell. "American Indians: A Bibliography of Sources." American Libraries, 1(1970), 861-64. Information on "Book Materials," "Pamphlets," "Periodicals," which includes Akwesasne Notes, Amerindian, Indian Historian, Indian Record, Journal of American Indian Education, ONAS Newsletter; "Non-Print Materials," "Photographs," "Slides," "Transparancies," and "Recordings."

12. Stensland, Anna Lee. Literature By and About the American Indian. An Annotated Bibliography. Urbana, III.: National Council of Teachers of English, 1973. 145 pp., plus "Study Guide to Selected Books," pp. 147-65; "Biographies of American Indian Authors," pp. 167-77; "Basic Books for a Collection," pp. 179-82; "Sources of Additional Materials," pp. 183-84; "Directory of Publishers," pp. 185-92; Indexes, pp. 193-208.

The annual bibliographies in the process of being produced by the Indian Historian Press under the editorship of Mrs. Henry will prove to be indispensable to the student, though the bibliographies will not attempt to be all-inclusive. The individual volumes are arranged alphabetically by subjects with authors of articles and books listed alphabetically under each subject. This means that an article or book may appear several times within the annual bibliography. For instance, the article by Rey Mickinock, listed below, appears four times in the volume for 1971, under the heading "Current Affairs," "Education,"

"Literature," and under the letter "M." Perhaps the book really doesn't fit under "Current Affairs" in any newspaper sense, but it certainly discusses current literature on the Indian.

Two other bibliographies which came out in 1973 deserve some comment. These are the books by Marken and Stensland. Both have been favorably reviewed; the most analytical review of them appears in the ASAIL Newsletter, in which Wayne Franklin points out the strengths and weaknesses of both. He particularly attacks Marken's book for its lack of good organization and index. He points out that it is most useful for "good beginning booklists in such areas as 'Myth and Legend' and 'Autobiography'; and . . . it can be helpful in ordering texts and in drawing up reading lists."

Franklin points out that Stensland's book is introductory "intended to help secondary teachers provide their students with material on Indian life as authentic as possible, rather than to form even a rudimentary 'scholarly' guide." It should be noted that the Stensland bibliography contains fewer entries than the Marken book, but hers is uniformly annotated, whereas few of his entries are.

From either of these bibliographies one may compile a list of modern anthologies. I give a list of some of the most recent here:

13. Astrov, Margot, ed. American Indian Prose and Poetry. New York: Capricorn Books, ed., 1962. Contains a long introduction, pp. 3-72, then ten sections based on geographical area, pp. 75-344, a bibliography. pp. 345-59; and index, pp. 361-66.

14. Allen, T. D. The Whispering Wind Poetry by Young American Indians. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., 1972. Introduction, pp. xi-xii, preface, xiii-xvi; poems, pp. 1-128. Mrs. Allen has published other volumes and annually puts out volumes (approximately 35 pages each) of poetry by Indian students from BIA schools. These have been titled Arrow I, Arrow II, etc., from 1968 onward. All of these were recently collected into Arrows Four. Arrow V, 1973, and Arrow VI, 1974, may be the last of these as government funds for the publication have been stopped.

15. Bierhorst, John. In the Trail of the Wind. American Indian Poems And Ritual Orations. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1971. Short introduction and eleven sections under topics, pp. 1-174; notes, pp. 176-97; glossary of terms, 198-200; suggestions for further reading. p. 201.

16. Cronyn, George W., ed. American Indian Poetry: An Anthology of Songs and Chants. New York: Liveright, 1962. (First published in 1918 under the title The Path of the Rainbow).

17. Curtis, Natalie. The Indian's Book: Songs and Legends of the American Indians. New York: Dover Publications, 1907; rpt. 1968. Contains an introduction, pp. xxi-xxxi and sections under various tribes, pp. 3-532; an appendix, pp. 533-72; and an index, pp. 573-83. There are footnotes and many musical stores for individual songs. This book and the anthology by Sanders listed below are the two largest of the anthologies in print.

18. Day, A. Grove, ed. The Sky Clears: Poetry of the American Indian. 1951, rpt. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1964. Contains a foreward, pp. vii-xii; selections of poetry arranged by section of the country, pp. 1-182; bibliography, pp. 185-98; and index, pp. 201-204.

19. Henry, Jeannette, ed. The American Indian Reader: Literature San Francisco: The Indian Historian Press, 1973. 249 pages.

20. Milton, John, ed. The American Indian I. Vermillion, SD; Dakota Press, 1969. (This is the summer 1969 issue of the South Dakota Review.) Contains poetry, fiction, arts, and essays by Indians of all ages. 191 pages, plus a short paragraph on each contributor, pp. 192-194.

21. Milton, John, ed. American Indian II. Vermillion, SD; Dakota Press, 1971. (The Summer 1971 issue of the South Dakota Review.) The number of contributors are eleven, and the selections by each are accompanied by the author's photograph. 195 pages, plus "Selected Bibliography of American Indian Writing," pp. 197-99.

22. Rothenberg, Jerome, ed. Shaking the Pumpkin. Traditional Poetry of the Indian North Americas. Garden City, NY: Doubleday Anchor Book, 1972. Contains a "Pre-Face," pp. xix-xxvi, and poems under various topics, pp. 3-399; commentaries, pp. 402-74. I have not seen the other anthology by Rothenberg mentioned under Bevis, below.

23. Sanders, Thomas E., and Walter W. Peek, eds. Literature of the American Indian. New York: Glencoe Press, 1973. Contains "An Historical Overview," pp. 1-12; eight chapters each with an introduction, pp. 13-525; and index, pp. 527-34. Except for the anthologies by Jeannette Henry and Shirley Witt, this is the only one edited by Indians. Covering Indian literature from the beginnings to the present, this anthology would have been more valuable as a text if the editors had provided more footnote material. It is the most expensive of current anthologies.

24. Witt, Shirley Hill, and Stan Steiner, eds. The Way: An Anthology of American Indian Literature. New York: Vintage Books (Alfred A. Knopf), 1972. Contains a short introduction, pp. xvii-xxix, and then poetry and prose (generally quite short pieces) pp. 3-253. Acknowledgements, pp. 255-61. Very little scholarly apparatus or helpful information.

A number of articles discussing modern Indian literature have recently been written, and one or two of them discuss most of the anthologies listed above. Others discuss Indian literature as literature, and several discuss particular modern works. These are:

25. Allen, Paula, "Symbol and Structure in Native American Literature: Some Basic Considerations." CCC, 24 (October 1973), 267-70.

26. Bevis, William. "American Indian Verse Translations." College English, 35 (March 1974), 693-703. A careful discussion of the most recent anthologies, pointing out the deficiencies in the translations of Indian poetry. He ranks the anthologies as recommended: Astrov's American Indian Prose and Poetry, Bierhorst's In the Trail of the Wind, Curtis' The Indians Book, Tedlock, Finding the Center; Uneven: Cronyn's American Indian Poetry, Day's The Sky Clears: Not recommended: Brandon's The Magic World; Rothenberg's Technicians of the Sacred and Shaking the Pumpkin.

27. Cook, Elizabeth. "Propulsives in Native American Literature." CCC, 24 (October 1973), 271-74. She speaks of the continuing richness of the literature by the American Indian; it changes, but it is not dying.

28. Brandon, William. "American Indian Literature." Indian Historian, 4 (Summer 1971), 53-5.

29. Dillingham, Peter. "The Literature of the American Indian." English Journal, 62 (January 1973), 37-41.

30. Fisher, Laura, "All Chiefs, No Indians: What Children's Books Say About American Indians." Elementary English, 51 (1974), 158-89. Discusses a large number of recent books on the Indian.

31. Haslam, Gerald. "The Light That Fills the World: Native American Literature." South Dakota Review, 11 (Spring 1973), 27-41.

32. Lewis, Robert W. "English and American Indian Studies." Indian Historian, 6 (Fall 1973), 32-37, 54.

33. Mickinock, Rey. "The Plight of the Native American." The Library Journal, 96 (September 15, 1971), 2848-51. About good and bad books by and about the Indian. He recommends Mari Sandoz's These Were the Sioux, The Horse-Catcher, The Battle of Little Bighorn, The Story Catcher; Ralph Audrist's The Long Death; Vine Deloria, Jr.'s books; Betty Baker's Walk the World's Rim and Killer of Death; Christie Harris's Raven's Cry and Once Upon a Totem; Florence Mean's Our Cup is Broken; Mary Warren's Walk in My Moccasin; Hal Borland's When the Legends Die; Thomas Berger's Little Big Man; and Joe Cushman's Stay Away, Joe.

34. Porter, Mark. "Mysticism of the Land and the Western Novel." South Dakota Review, 11 (Spring 1973), 79-91. On Indian mysticism and preoccupation with the land, which is also a characterisitc theme of the western novel.

35. Sanders, Thomas E. "Tribal Literature: Individual Identity and the Collective Unconscious." CCC, 24 (October 1973), 256-66.

36. Smith, William F. "American Indian Literature." English Journal, 63 (January 1974) 68-72. He discusses the best works in four different categories: anthologies, autobiographies, poetry (anthologies), and traditional narratives (myths, tales, and legends).

37. Stensland, Anna Lee, "American Indian Culture and the Reading Program," Journal of Reading, 15 (October 1971), 22-26. A discussion and bibliography of many books -- novels, biographies, and anthologies -- that ought to be read.

38. Stensland, Anna Lee, "American Indian Culture: Promises, Problems, and Possibilities." English Journal, 60 (1971), 1195-1200. She discusses a number of books, including anthologies and autobiographies, and argues that courses in Indian culture should be in the curriculum.

Of these articles, the best are by Bevis and Haslam for those teaching Indian literature in the colleges; Mickinock, Dillingham, and Smith are more relevant to secondary teachers. Smith's inclusion of Frank Waters' Book of the Hopi under autobiographies is curious.

Many newspapers and journals concerning the American Indian exist. The most complete list can be made by combining the "Magazines and Periodicals" of Klein and Icolari's Encylcopedia with the section entitled "Native American Publications" in Henry's Index for 1971. Of those I have seen, two newspapers Akwesasne Notes of the Mohawk nation and Wassaja of the American Indian Historical Society, stand out as the best, and the Indian Historian is the best journal. The most accessible list of audio visual aids, films and filmstrips is in the Klein and Icolari Encyclopedia. A good comprehensive article on this is:

39. Center for the Study of Man, Smithsonian Institution. [Blew, Carol H., Bess C. Keller, Carol Ballentine, and Marianna Kouskouras] "Current North American Indian Periodicals." Social Education, 36, (May 1972), 494-500. This is a useful list of about 150 entries. Some are really not much in the way of periodicals.

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